

SALONA PARK TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2012

The meeting convened at 7:35 p.m.

Members attending: Margaret Malone, Whit Field, Mark Turner, Dan DuVal, Beth Chung, Sybil Caldwell, and Carole Herrick. Fairfax County staff attending: Cheryl Patten representing Supervisor John Foust, and Andy Galusha, representing the Fairfax County Park Authority. Guest attending: Dave Borsos, representing MYA.

The minutes of March 27, 2012 were approved as written.

There were no guest speakers or presentations at this meeting.

Ms. Malone began a discussion regarding the proposal to have the first public meeting by the Task Force in the fall of 2012. It was observed that it was important to have Fairfax County Park Authority staff and other professional staff resources available to assist at the meeting. Mr. Galusha commented that a fall meeting might enable the Park Authority to work more fully with the Task Force since there will be no conflict with staff scheduled leave. A fall meeting would allow more time to prepare materials and gather information resulting from the stream and archaeological studies that have been requested. The materials and findings of the studies would be reflected in the presentations at the first public meeting. Most of the Task Force's information gathering work would be completed by the first public meeting.

The first public meeting is proposed to be held on October 4, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the McLean Community Center. The second meeting is proposed to be held in early December.

The following agenda was proposed for the October meeting:

- Presentation by Andy Galusha on behalf of the Park Authority
- Power-point presentation by Task Force chair, Margaret Malone, regarding what the Task Force has learned
- Open session where visitors will be invited to visit information stations, which will be manned by Task Force members, outside experts, and note takers.

It was suggested that there should be six information stations with the following individuals available to answer questions:

1. History and archaeology – Carole Herrick and Aimee Wells
2. Active and passive recreation – Joel Stillman and Ed Pickens
3. Educational opportunities – Dan DuVal and individuals representing organizations that have made presentations to the Task Force, e.g., the Potomac School, George Mason, Fairfax County Public Schools
4. Environment – Beth Chung and Charles Smith
5. Green Building – Mark Turner, other expert(s)
6. Parking and traffic/ Conditions of the easement – Sybil Caldwell, Whit Field and Andy Galusha

Additional persons may be asked to assist at the stations as plans for the public meeting are further considered.

There was a discussion concerning the outreach needed to solicit public opinion. The purpose of the first meeting (October 4) would be to inform the public about what the Task Force had learned over the preceding year and to enable the public to ask questions and express opinions about the options that have been proposed. This meeting would be aimed at providing broad outreach, beyond interest groups, to the community at large. Efforts will be made to inform the public about the meeting through outreach to the press and other means. It was commented that the task force should be sensitive, transparent and timely with our public outreach so that we can properly defend our process once we make our recommendations.

It was noted that the minutes of the Task Force are posted on the Fairfax County Park Authority web site and that there are continuous updates regarding the work of the Task Force in Supervisor Foust's newsletter.

Ms. Malone and Mr. DuVal will give a presentation to the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) before the public meeting. Ms. Malone will distribute the Task Force approved statement, "The Future of Salona Park."

The next area of discussion focused on the nature of the materials that would be available at the first public meeting. It was agreed that the handouts available at each station would summarize the most important facts relative to the station. The handouts would be brief, approximately two pages. They would be coordinated by the Chair. It was suggested that the summaries be posted on the FCPA web site so that the public can read them in advance of the meeting and thereby be better prepared to ask questions and make comments. It was agreed that at the next meeting the Task Force chairs will propose and further discuss the content of the handouts and suggest the visual displays

that will be provided at each station. The format of the displays and handouts will be standardized among the stations.

It was noted that Supervisor Foust recommended to Ms. Malone that she contact the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for help in organizing the meeting. Ms. Malone will contact Mark Gibb, the executive director.

Future Business:

- Hidden Oaks Nature Center visit scheduled for the morning of May 8, 2012
- Fairfax County Master Naturalist will make a presentation to the Task Force at the April 24, 2012 meeting
- Meeting with the community – potentially May 8, 2012
- Beginning in May the Task Force meetings will be at the Dolley Madison Library

THE NEXT MEETING FOR THE TASK FORCE IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012.